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Room 1729 D (3877)

Ext 2701

13 March 1955

IN REPLY
PLEASE QUOTE NO.

Dear Professor Szilard,

My friend and colleague Tjallingii Koopmans, whom I yesterday saw, gave me your letter to the Editor of the N.Y. Times of Febr. 2. Being myself equally concerned about the subject and finding myself in a somewhat similar position, i.e. outside the American administration and approaching matters from the scientist's viewpoint, I venture to send you a personal note I am sending to Mr. Hennmarckjöld, for your personal use. I would be very grateful for some words about the response your letter had. Did you address it also directly to someone in the State Department?

I put similar, although not quite the same, questions to professor Kennan of Princeton, whose publications on Russia gave me some courage to approach him. He does not feel, however, so much need for the sort of approach I hinted on in my letter to him; and it must be recognized that I could not present any "solution" to him.

You may be interested to know that the economic subject I mention under 2 at the end is being investigated now — on a modest scale — in the Netherlands Economic Institute, of which I am one of the directors. I am here for a committee on "Sunfed" (Special U.N. Fund for Economic Development) and using this opportunity to orientate myself on these vital matters while here.

Yours very sincerely,

J. Tinbergen

The University of Chicago
Chicago 37, Illinois

June 25, 1955

Mr. Jan Tinbergen
Centraalplan Bureau
The Hague, Holland

Dear Mr. Tinbergen:

It was very kind of you to write to me after you read the letter to the editor which appeared in the New York Times on February 6th. The response to this "Letter" was rather overwhelming and I was snowed under for a little while. When I recovered and tried to contact you in New York, you were gone.

As a result of the response which I got, I am now trying to set up an inquiry which you will find described in the attached memorandum. The University of Chicago has given me a year in which I may try to put together such an organization.

The purpose of my letter today is to find out in a very preliminary and tentative way whether you might be able to make yourself available for a year to serve on the Commission which is described in the memorandum. At this moment I do not know whether it will be in fact possible to set up this inquiry and therefore my question to you is rather tentative. You may assume though that if the inquiry is set up at all, it will pay about \$25,000 to each member of the Commission for a year's work.

On the attached sheet you will find the names of others whom I have approached or whom I am going to approach in the near future.

Since there would be no point in assembling a group of men unless they can agree in advance on the general philosophy that will guide their inquiry, I am sending you also a memorandum dated June 15, which tries to define such a general philosophy. I would greatly appreciate your criticism of this memorandum.

Mr. Jan Tinbergen

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June 25, 1955

Would you be good enough to let me know whether there is a chance that you might make yourself available to serve on the Commission? Beyond this you could not go at present in any case, since your final answer must depend on all the circumstances involved, which at present I am not in a position to state.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

LS:srr

Leo Szilard

The Hague, 24 July 1955
Sijzenlaan 41

Dear Dr Szilard,

Thank you very much for your letter of June 25. Since I was in the U. S. at that time, but due to return soon, my wife did not send it to me and I only got it at home. We then had to rush to our holiday resort; she took a big packet of mail together; I for some time gave all my time to a text which I have to finish and all this, I hope, is ^{some} sufficient excuse for ^{my} only answering you to-day.

I am very much impressed by your paper on which I am going to send you some comments this week. I am somewhat embarrassed by your request to co-operate and I am investigating the possibilities. I am afraid that it will be impossible to join your commission before January 1, since I have some contractual obligations before that time: I have to write a report to the World Bank. There are other difficulties in connection with certain obligations in this country.

Let me say & in any case that I am anxious to give whatever comments I am able to and to remain in close touch with you. I hope to let you know more precisely about my possibilities during the month of August. Very probably I shall be in your country from September 1956 to June 1957 when I am supposed to teach at Harvard. Before that period

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Professor Leo Szilard
% C. H. Spangl
~~The University of Chicago~~
International Latex Company
350 - 5th Avenue Chicago 37, Ill.
New York City, N.Y. U.S.A.
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EXPÉDITEUR / AFZENDER

J. Tinbergen
Sijzenlaan 41
The Hague - the Netherlands

NIETS INSLUITEN!

INDIEN ZULKS TOCH GESCHIEDT, DAN WORDT DEZE BRIEF PER BOOT / TREIN VERZONDEN

I shall probably be ^{in the U.S.} there at the beginning of December 1955 (at the World Bank again) and maybe also before that date. I shall be glad to contact you on any of these occasions.

With best wishes,

Yours very sincerely,

J. Tinbergen